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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 11 June 1953

**SUBJECT**

Physical Chemistry and Applied Physical  
Chemistry Institute, Humboldt University,  
East Berlin

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT  
REPORT NO.

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1. The Institute for Physical Chemistry, Humboldt University, Berlin, was badly damaged during the last days of World War II. Under the direction of Professor Robert Havenmann, the institute was rebuilt from 1948 to 1950. Unfortunately, this reconstruction was undertaken piecemeal and without planning, with the result that the installations and instruments of the institute are today so antiquated that the institute is barely able to function properly. The following institutes and laboratories were located in this reconstructed building during Humboldt University's 1952 winter term:
  - a. the newly-founded Institute for Applied Physical Chemistry. Professor Robert Havenmann, Director.
  - b. Institute for Food Chemistry. Professor Tauschel, Director.
  - c. Laboratory for Chemical Technology. Professor H. T. Franck, Director.
  - d. Institute for Physical Chemistry. Professor Carl Haufler, Director.
2. Upon the insistence of Professor Haufler, the Institute for Food Chemistry moved to a new building in Berlin Weissensee to make room for the personnel coming with Professor Haufler from Greifswald.
3. A reconstruction and installation plan was suggested to modernize the entire institute. The first phase of this plan was approved and included the following:
  - a. complete reconstruction of the laboratories located in the basement.
  - b. complete reconstruction of the laboratories located on the Dunsenstrasser side of the ground floor.
  - c. reconstruction of the entire attic.
  - d. reconstruction of the large auditorium.

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4. In addition to a glass-blowing shop, there is a well-furnished tool shop in the institute building. There is also a large machine shop with several motor generator sets for AC of medium and high frequency and a DC motor generator of 6 - 24 Volts and 800 - 1000 Amperes. The only room in the entire building which was properly furnished was Professor Havenmann's office which, in addition, contained a large picture of Lenin.
5. The following personnel were assigned to the institute:
  - one caretaker: Kurt Hohenstein
  - one telephone operator: (fmu) Skrowonek
  - four charwomen
  - one fireman
6. The following personnel were attached to the tool shop and glass blowing shop:
  - two master mechanics
  - five junior mechanics
  - one electrician
  - four apprentices
  - one glass blower
7. At the start of the 1952 winter term, the entire staff of the Physical Chemistry Institute of Greifswald University, with the exception of Dr. Landsberg and Dipl. chem. A. Rahmel, transferred to Humboldt University. Thus, one dipl. physicist and seven assistants, one photo assistant, two secretaries, and one librarian have been added to the staff.
8. The new staff members transferred most of their work with them from Greifswald. Herr Maether concluded his semi-conductor work on  $ZnWO_4$  and is now working on the mechanism of internal oxidation of copper-aluminum alloys and the diffusion speed of oxygen through these alloys. This research is based on the theoretical work of Dr. Seyferth and is being undertaken in close cooperation with Seyferth.
9. The departure of Professor Hauffe <sup>1/</sup> from Berlin became known there in early January 1953. It was also known that he was [redacted] This caused considerable consternation in the institute, the university, and in the State Secretariat. Both the university and State Secretariat apparently desire to continue the institute as previous to Hauffe's departure and all research tasks remain unchanged and are budgeted as before. Profs. Robert Rompe and Friedrich Moeglich have taken over temporary charge of the institute; it is significant that Professor Havenmann was not asked to do so. 25X1
10. The following personnel are presently employed at the institute:
  - a. Director Professor Robert Havenmann. His salary is approximately 5000 East Marks monthly. [redacted] He is a member of the SED, the World Peace League, Kulturbund for Democratic Renewal of Germany, and the Society for German-Soviet Friendship. He belongs to no scientific societies and is presently rector for student affairs at Humboldt University. 25X1

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b. Dipl. Physicist R. Stange. He is presently engaged in research on the "mechanism of sight in the eye". Because this type research needs a relatively large amount of apparatus, no appreciable progress has been made. Stange is an excellent scientist and good results may be expected if apparatus becomes available.

c. Dipl. Physicist Gannon. Gannon is conducting research into "Afterglow (Nachleuchte) effect of photo conducting CdS". This research is undertaken without Havenann's supervision because Havenann is not directly interested in such problems.

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d. Frau Dipl. chemist Fenske. Frau Fenske is conducting research on "Magnetic examinations on magnetophone bands". This work is practically concluded and ready to be submitted as a doctoral dissertation.

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e. Dipl. physicist, name unknown. This person is conducting research on the "mechanism of fluorescence solution of organic molecules". This work is being done on the basis of work previously done by Rabinowitsch and 11,000 East Marks had been allowed for expenses in 1952.

11. The work on magnetophone bands was requested directly by ZAFT and may be considered as a special research task. The Journal for Physical Chemistry, Academy reports, and the Journal for Experimental and Theoretical Physics are Soviet literature available at the institute.

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